



The Olver Report

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN OLVER
FIRST DISTRICT—MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester & Middlesex Counties

FIGHTING FOR GARDNER, WINCHENDON, ASHBURNHAM, AND TEMPLETON

Investing in Our Economic Future

Attracting new businesses and creating new jobs is the key to economic rebirth in cities and towns throughout the First Congressional District.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has played a major role in helping our cities invest in the creation of new industrial parks designed to attract such opportunities.

Last year, Congressman John Olver helped the Gardner Redevelopment Authority and the City of Gardner secure a \$675,000 EDA grant for the Summit Industrial Park.

This November, the City broke ground for the Summit Industrial Park, a project that is expected to generate 800 jobs over five years and attract \$10 million in related private investment to the greater Gardner area communities along Route 140.

Fighting for Our Veterans

Recognizing that U.S. veterans deserve our utmost respect and attention, Congressman John Olver has worked hard on behalf of First Congressional District veterans. From working out veterans benefits problems to securing military medals and recognition earned but never presented to defending veterans spending programs in Washington, Congressman Olver is a strong veterans advocate.

This year, Congressman Olver supported efforts to construct state veterans cemeteries in western and central Massachusetts. Ground has already been broken for a state cemetery in Agawam. Just last month, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chose

Winchendon as a second site for a state veterans cemetery. Congressman Olver has pledged to help work toward securing a \$3.8 million federal grant for construction of the Winchendon cemetery.

Building Our Local Infrastructure

Last month, the City of Gardner broke ground on the Snake and Kendall Ponds water and sewer project. This initiative will provide water and sewer services to area residents, the airport, and other local businesses while respecting the ecological integrity of the lowlands along the Otter River.

Since becoming Gardner's congressman in 1993, John Olver has identified ways for the federal government to invest in the City. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he secured the \$4 million in federal funding in the FY 1995 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill for the Snake and Kendall Ponds project.

Establishing Transportation Options

Recognizing that investment in transportation infrastructure is important to the economic development of the greater Gardner region, Congressman John Olver has spearheaded an effort to provide federal assistance to the Northern Tier Transit Coalition.

Included in the FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations Bill was \$1 million for the Community Transportation Association of America's JOBLINKS program. This budget provision establishes a regional transportation project linking communities along the Gardner-to-Greenfield corridor, including a Gardner-to-Winchendon link.

Once established, this project will play an important role in making health care, job opportunities, and educational institutions available to all citizens living along the Northern Tier.

Also included in the Transportation Bill was \$875,000 Congressman Olver sought for a Traveler Information System kiosk program along Route 2. This program will provide electronic information detailing area events, sites, and attractions via computer kiosks. This kiosk system will stretch from Berkshire County through North Worcester County.



Congressman Olver met with members of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce at his 1997 Business Leaders Conference on Capitol Hill this past September. Business leaders heard from House Appropriations Chairman Bob Livingston, House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, EPA Administrator Carol Browner, and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Protecting Our Local Neighborhoods

One of the most successful federal programs in recent years has been the Department of Justice's community policing program or COPS. Included in the 1994 Crime Bill, the COPS program has aided local communities both large and small by putting more police officers on the beat and providing them with the equipment they need to protect our neighborhoods.

The COPS program has been highly successful throughout the First Congressional District. In 1997 alone, the greater Gardner area has received more than \$50,000 in COPS money. Since the start of the COPS program three years ago, the area has earned nearly \$1 million in community policing grants. More police officers are in our neighborhoods. And every study shows that crime is down.

These COPS grants are essential to making our streets safer. That is why Congressman John Oliver fights so hard for all of those First District communities who apply for federal funding.

Providing Educational Opportunities for All

In this ever-changing global economy, a strong education is growing more and more important. Often, employers are requiring college degrees when hiring for newly created jobs.

This is a major change from generations past. That is why the Department of Education established its TRIO program to meet the growing needs of first-generation college students. On campuses throughout the nation, TRIO programs are providing help to new college students.

This past spring, Congressman John Oliver fought for TRIO funding for state colleges across the First District. He was successful in securing a \$243,000 Department of Education grant for Mount Wachusett Community College's TRIO program.

Fighting for a Better Future

Throughout the 105th Congress, U.S. Representative John Oliver has fought for a better future for the people of the First Congressional District and the nation. This fight has produced some positive outcomes and some continued battles.

During 1997, Congressman Oliver has:

- ✓ Voted for a balanced budget plan that will provide valuable tax relief for working families, including a child tax credit, education tax credits, and cuts in capital gains and estate taxes
- ✓ Voted to secure health insurance for millions of children currently without access to quality health care
- ✓ Received the Concord Coalition's Deficit Hawk Award for making the tough choices needed to balance the federal budget
- ✓ Fought for the release of \$210 million in LIHEAP winter heating money for families and seniors throughout the nation
- ✓ Offered legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$6.50 an hour by the year 2000



Congressman Oliver meets with First Congressional District students on Capitol Hill. Providing educational and job opportunities for today's youth is one of Congressman Oliver's top priorities in Congress.

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